(b) the intent of financial help given to NGOs for road safety in 2006-07;

(c) whether it is a fact that many NGOs like the Road Safety Forum do not seek or obtain help from NHAI, other agencies and Government;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government gives more weight to funded NGOs rather than public service oriented organizations; and

(e) the steps proposed to give high emphasis to suggestions from voluntary bodies who are not funded by NHAI and Government to increase road safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Financial assistance is being given to the NGOs by this Ministry for administering the road safety programme and for imparting two-day refresher training programme to the heavy motor vehicle (HMV) drivers in the unorganized sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) All the NGOs whether funded or not funded by this Ministry are being given the same weightage. Any constructive suggestion with regard to road safety measures received from voluntary bodies in this Ministry is given due consideration by this Ministry.

Rest areas on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh

1899. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NHAI has not built any rest areas on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh in the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a long standing demand for a rest area on NH-5 by the Road Safety Forum;

(c) whether NHAI has acquired 20 acres of land for a rest area and then colluded with speculators and quietly released the land;

(d) the latest status of the proposal for a rest area on NH-5 between Vijayawada-Rajahmundry; and

(e) the steps proposed to address grievances by NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Land has been acquired at Sinagavaram near Eluru on Vijayawada-Rajahmundry section of NH-5 for developing a comprehensive rest area.